

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

*ER Basic filed W-6*

OLC 75-2681/a

5 NOV 1975

Honorable Lester L. Wolff  
Chairman, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on  
International Narcotics Control  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I wish to call your attention to the unprecedented publication by the Government of the Union of Burma of news releases on their recent military operations against opium traffickers in the Shan State. All Burmese newspapers contained prominent articles on October 15th detailing the successes of the Burmese Army in actions against traffickers in April 1974, June 1975, and September-October 1975. The articles were supported by front page headlines, tactical maps and photographs of a seized opium refinery and storage site.

Following is the text of the article which appeared in the Rangoon English-language Working People's Daily:

"Tatmadaw Captures Heroin Refineries.

"Offensive waged against rebel opium traffickers in Shan State. Rangoon, 14 October - the armed forces have been waging relentless offensives against the multi-colored insurgents who had set up opium refineries in the thick jungles of the Shan State and moving raw opium and heroin on mules.

"Receiving information that a combined force of about 300 Shan rebels of the SURA (Shan United Revolutionary Army) Mohein Group and White Chinese (KMT) bandits had set up an opium refinery on a hill in the jungles near Pan Pi village south of Langhko in the southern Shan State, troops from the Eastern Command and men from the No. 77 Light Infantry Division stormed and seized the hill between 14 and 26 September 1975.

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

*W-6*



"The rebel opium traffickers resisted the armed forces at Na Wawn village on 14 September, Wan Pong village on 16 September and at two places to the east of Hill 5883 on 19 September. Three rebels were captured dead and one captured alive with arms in the four encounters. The armed forces lost two killed and nine wounded.

"From the opium refinery near Pan Pi, the armed forces captured 10,505 of M-1 rounds, 21,955 of M-16 rounds, 1000 of 7.9mm rounds, 1,220 of 40mm rounds, 146 of 57mm rounds, 95 of 60mm HE bombs, 134 hand-grenades, 29 M 18-A mines, 27 M 18-A-1 mines, one M 87-A-2 rocket launcher, mine laying equipment, over 300 gallons of morphine base, and refining equipment. The refinery was destroyed.

"The armed forces of the Eastern Command with the help of the Burma Air Force attacked a caravan of over 300 mules carrying opium and jade, and escorted by more than 400 armed Loi Maw insurgents belonging to the SUA (Shanland United Army) near Ho Khai and Panglaw villages in Loilem township, southern Shan State, during April 1974. The armed forces captured over 800 viss of opium, 7,824 viss of jade, 14 Buddha's images and 18 mules together with 10 rebel opium traffickers.

"The Northeast Command also launched offensives in the northern Shan State units from the No. 99 Light Infantry Division. During June 1975, the armed forces captured 65 kilograms of heroin, 100 viss of raw opium and 500 gallons of morphine base from two heroin refineries of the SUA Loi Maw insurgents near Nammu Hse village in Tangyang township.

"According to latest information, about 400 Loi Maw insurgents from the Shanland United Army (SUA) escorting a caravan of more than 200 mules loaded with opium and jade are being attacked by the armed forces in Keng Hkan area while a combined force of about 600 rebels from SURA Mohein group and White Chinese (KMT) bandits escorting a caravan of 400 mules is fleeing across the Salween at Ta Pan Tawng and retreating towards Thailand. Over 400 armed opium traffickers under the name of KIA (Kachin Independence Army) insurgents who are in Tham Ngop and Piang Luang inside Thailand, are unable to get back into Burma and are now stranded in Thailand with over 200 kilograms of heroin in their hands."

The article is accurate as far as it goes. [redacted]

STAT  
STAT

The publication of their recent successes is only one indication of Burma's apparent interest to continue their narcotics suppression activities. [redacted]

STAT  
STAT

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby  
Director

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - DDCI

✓ 1 - ER

1 - Mr. Shakley, C/EA Division

1 - DDO

1 - DDO/OPS/NARCOG

1 - OLC Subject

1 - OLC Chrono

OLC:RC:cmw (typed 30 October 1975) [redacted]

STAT